## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

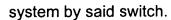
1. A novelty or entertainment device comprising:

a housing in the form of a sea shell;

a sound reproduction system mounted to said housing so as to remain hidden from casual visual inspection of said housing; and

a switch mounted to said housing and operatively connected to said sound reproduction system for activating same in response to a lifting of said housing to an ear of a user.

- 2. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said switch is a gravity switch.
- 3. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said switch is connected to a proximity detector for sensing nearness of a surface to a mouth of said housing.
- 4. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said sea shell is in the form of a conch shell.
- 5. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said sound reproduction system includes a solid-state memory, a power source, and an electroacoustic transducer.
- 6. The device defined in claim 1 wherein said sound reproduction system includes a memory storing a plurality of different sound bites and means for accessing different ones of said sound bites on successive activations of said sound reproduction



7. A novelty or entertainment method comprising:

providing a housing in the form of a sea shell; and

in response to a removal of said housing from a stationary storage position towards an ear of a user, reproducing a predetermined sound so that the reproduced sound may be perceived by the user.

- 8. The method defined in claim 7 wherein the sound includes a verbal message.
- 9. The method defined in claim 7, further comprising automatically sensing a movement of said housing, the reproducing of said sound being induced upon the sensing of said movement.

133 N